

IN HONOR OF REVEREND ROMAN MISIEWICZ

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 26, 2011

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor and recognition of Reverend Roman Misiewicz, who is celebrating his 50th anniversary of his ordination to the Priesthood. Reverend Misiewicz's continued dedication to serving God, his students, and his parishioners have made him a pillar of the community.

Reverend Misiewicz was born in Drohobycz, Poland shortly before the Second World War. After the war, during which his town was repeatedly bombarded, he and his family moved to Chorzow, where he graduated from high school. He went on to attend Jagiellonian University in Krakow, where he enrolled in the seminary and was ordained into the priesthood in 1961. During his time at Jagiellonian University, one of Reverend Misiewicz's professors was Karol Wojtyla, who later became Pope John Paul II.

During the reign of Communism in Poland, Reverend Misiewicz served as a parish priest and as an academic chaplain. In addition, he lectured clandestinely on human rights despite the danger it posed to him. In 1970, he moved to America and began working as a pastor at St. Mary's Church in Lublin, Wisconsin. In 1971 he married Jolanta Machnik in Chicago, Illinois, and soon moved to Cleveland.

Fr. Roman Misiewicz served as the pastor of Holy Trinity Church in Cleveland from 1972 until the close of the parish in 2003. At that time, he became the pastor of St. Mary's Church in Parma, where he continues to preach. In addition to his priestly duties, Reverend Misiewicz teaches Information Technology and has served as a Dean of Education at a variety of institutions of higher learning in the Cleveland area.

Mr. Speaker and Colleagues, please join me in honoring Reverend Roman Misiewicz, as he celebrates his Golden Jubilee. I extend my sincerest congratulations to Fr. Roman and look forward to his exemplification of faith and service in our community.

NATIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION ACT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2012

SPEECH OF

HON. GWEN MOORE

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 25, 2011

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 1540) to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2012 for military activities of the Department of Defense and for military construction, to prescribe military personnel strengths for fiscal year 2012, and for other purposes:

Ms. MOORE. Madam Chair, I rise reluctantly to oppose the amendment offered by my distinguished colleague and friend, Mr. CONYERS, regarding Libya.

I share the gentleman's concerns about the prospect of U.S. troops being dragged into a

third war. Eight years after our ill-advised misadventure in Iraq and a decade after sending our troops to Afghanistan, we have extensive evidence of the many failings of a military only strategy to address the world's ills, including fanatical dictators bent on harming their own citizens as in Libya.

However, while I share the gentleman's concerns, I am also troubled that the amendment, as written, would have unintended consequences and would unnecessarily hamstring the use of the military for a host of non-combat purposes in Libya.

For example, the amendment would prohibit U.S. ground forces from being used to provide humanitarian aid to the Libyan people. Whether we like it or not, one of the things our nation's military is very good at is providing humanitarian aid to people in need around the world. We saw this after the earthquake in Pakistan in 2004 and again when massive floods hit Pakistan in 2010 and again in Haiti after last year's earthquake.

The U.N. has warned of a humanitarian crisis unfolding in Libya with hundreds of thousands of people lacking access or in danger of losing access to basic necessities. Unfortunately, the amendment makes clear that the only authorized reason for U.S. troops in Libya is to rescue U.S. military personnel that are in danger. Such a narrow exception unduly hampers the ability of the President to conduct a range of efforts well short of occupation that our military may be in the best position to undertake.

Additionally, under this amendment, our military could not be used to rescue allied NATO personnel, to help rescue U.S. citizens whose lives may be in danger in Libya or to conduct an airlift of U.S. citizens out of the country, or even to help provide aid to a U.N. or African Union peacekeeping mission should a political solution be found to remove Colonel Qadhafi from power.

Let's be clear. My vote against this amendment is not a vote for sending U.S. troops to Libya to fight a civil war. Having voted a number of times for resolutions and legislation to restrict the use of and/or remove our troops from Iraq and Afghanistan, my record is very clear that I am not in support of occupation of foreign nations. Yet, even those efforts allowed a broad range of commonsense exceptions which I think are missing here.

If the Constitution still lives, the introduction of ground troops for the purposes of combat—which my colleagues are concerned would occur in Libya—in any nation would clearly require an authorization of war by Congress. If that were to occur, Congress should and must hold an up or down vote to either authorize the use of such troops for combat or call for their withdrawal.

The U.N. Resolution authorizing international efforts to protect civilians in Libya explicitly rules out the use of foreign ground troops. The President has made very clear that U.S. ground troops will not be sent to Libya. I will take him at his word.

INTRODUCTION OF SENSE OF CONGRESS THAT FEDERAL GOVERNMENT SHOULD TAKE STEPS TO COUNTER ANTI-MUSLIM SENTIMENT

HON. JOHN CONYERS, JR.

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 26, 2011

Mr. CONYERS. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to introduce this resolution expressing the sense of Congress that the federal government should take steps to counter anti-Muslim sentiment, along with additional cosponsors. Over the last decade, the American Muslim community has confronted a festering level of suspicion which has manifested itself in hostile government policies and bias from the general public. A CBS/New York Times poll released in mid-September showed that as many as 20 percent of Americans said they have negative feelings toward Muslims because of the September 11th terrorist attacks. While Congress has confronted some of the more violent manifestations of this bias, the general climate faced by the community has continued to create barriers to full participation in public life that should be addressed by official government policy.

As a member who represents a district with one of the greatest concentrations of American Muslims in the nation, I believe that this sense of Congress is a logical step toward sending the message that this group of proud citizens should be able to enjoy the rights guaranteed under the Constitution to the same extent as all other Americans. Throughout diverse cities and small towns across the country, American Muslims have a long history of playing crucial roles in law enforcement and the armed forces, and as business leaders, doctors, lawyers, and teachers. However, there exists in our nation today a disturbing and dangerous trend of anti-Muslim rhetoric and bigotry, evidenced by attacks against individuals, religious institutions and entire communities.

The United States is a country founded on the principles of tolerance and religious freedom, as embodied in the First Amendment of the Constitution. The protection of these principles is vital to the ongoing sense of community shared by the diverse peoples and religious groups of this nation. Targeting American Muslims for scrutiny based on their religion goes against the core principles of religious freedom and equal protection under the law. Moreover, the practice erodes trust in government and law enforcement at all levels, which, in turn, undermines public safety.

The American Muslim community should be able to rely on the federal government to lead the effort in fostering an open climate of understanding and cooperation. These communities must be shielded from the threat of violence and suspicion that was at the heart of last January's thwarted attack against the Islamic Center of America in Dearborn, Michigan. They should also be able to rely on law enforcement's fundamental integrity and respect for First Amendment protected rights. Only through a balanced examination of the challenges facing the nation will we establish a strong policy framework for protecting security, while respecting the Constitution and the interests of affected communities.